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Report of the Special Committee to Investigate Israeli Practices Affecting the Human Rights of the Palestinian People and Other Arabs of the Occupied Territories

Work of the Special Committee to Investigate Israeli Practices Affecting the Human Rights of the Palestinian People and Other Arabs of the Occupied Territories

Report of the Secretary-General

Summary

The present report is submitted pursuant to General Assembly resolution 68/80 and concerns the provision of the necessary facilities and staff to support the work of the Special Committee to Investigate Israeli Practices Affecting the Human Rights of the Palestinian People and Other Arabs of the Occupied Territories.

* A/69/50.

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1. The present report is submitted pursuant to General Assembly resolution 68/80.

2. In line with paragraph 8 of resolution 68/80, the Secretariat continued to provide the necessary facilities and staff to support the work of the Special Committee to Investigate Israeli Practices Affecting the Human Rights of the Palestinian People and Other Arabs of the Occupied Territories. The Special Committee was directly supported in the fulfilment of its mandate by the Office of the United Nations High Commissioner for Human Rights, the United Nations Information Centre in Cairo, the Department of Safety and Security, the Department of Public Information and offices of the United Nations Resident Coordinators in Egypt and in Jordan. In addition, the Special Committee engaged with the United Nations Relief and Works Agency for Palestine Refugees in the Near East (UNRWA) and the Office for the Coordination of Humanitarian Affairs.

3. Much of the support was related to the Special Committee's annual investigative mission to the region. In the light of Israel's continuing practice of non-cooperation with it, the Special Committee was not able to visit the occupied territories that fall within its mandate. In the light of the heightened security situation in the region, the Special Committee was not able to enter the Gaza Strip from Egypt at the Rafah crossing, as it had done in 2011 and 2012. The Special Committee therefore visited Amman from 1 to 3 June 2014 and Cairo on 4 and 5 June 2014. During its mission, the Special Committee collected testimony and information from 35 victims, witnesses, officials and representatives of organizations working to document and prevent violations of human rights and international humanitarian law in the occupied territories. Their testimony is recorded in the report of the Special Committee, to be transmitted by the Secretary-General to the General Assembly at its sixty-ninth session.

Department of Public Information

4. Pursuant to paragraph 8 (d) of resolution 68/80, the activities set out below were undertaken by the Department of Public Information.

5. The Department continued to cover, in multiple languages, the activities of the Special Committee, using both traditional means of communication and new media platforms to highlight the Special Committee's work and related developments.

6. The Meetings Coverage Section of the Department provided timely, detailed and accurate coverage in both English and French when the reports of the Special Committee were discussed by the Special Political and Decolonization Committee (Fourth Committee) and by the General Assembly.

7. The Media Accreditation and Liaison Unit, together with the associated Media Documents Centre, e-mailed the Special Committee's reports and related United Nations press releases to its clients and used social media to alert clients about the Special Committee's activities.

8. The Special Committee was also prominently covered on the United Nations News Centre portal, which is available in the six official languages of the United Nations. News stories were posted online and distributed via the portal's e-mail service, RSS feeds and Facebook and Twitter accounts. The stories were reproduced by an array of external websites, including popular news aggregators and various

online outlets based in Cuba, Egypt, India, Pakistan, the State of Palestine and the United States of America.

9. United Nations Radio, which operates daily in the six official languages as well as in Kiswahili and Portuguese — and weekly in Hindi, Urdu and Bangla — spotlighted issues and developments relating to the mandate of the Special Committee, including news stories and feature programmes about the Israeli blockade of the Gaza Strip, the activities of UNRWA, the activities of special rapporteurs, and the overall economic, social and human rights conditions of people living in the Occupied Palestinian Territory.